

Amtd. dated March 14, 2007
Reply to Office Action of October 16, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (withdrawn): A method for incubating *Pleurotus nebrodensis* characterized by inoculation and cultivation of an inoculum of *P. nebrodensis* in which the temperature is maintained uniformly in the early-cultivating stage, decreased in the mid-cultivating stage and increased in the late-cultivating stage that allow the mycelium to proliferate and generate fruiting bodies.

Claim 2 (withdrawn): A method for incubating *Pleurotus nebrodensis* characterized by an inoculation and cultivation of *P. nebrodensis* in a culture medium to allow mycelium proliferation and generation of fruiting bodies in which low temperature is maintained uniformly in the former-generating stage and increased in the latter--generating stage.

Claim 3 (withdrawn): A method for incubating *Pleurotus nebrodensis* characterized by inoculating and cultivating *Pleurotus nebrodensis* in a culture medium that allows mycelium to proliferate over the culture medium and generate fruiting bodies in which the temperature is maintained uniformly in the early-cultivating stage, decreased in the mid-cultivating stage, sharply increased in the latter-generating stage and low temperature maintained in the former generating stage and increased in the latter generating stage.

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Claim 4 (withdrawn): The method for incubating *Pleurotus nebrodensis* according to claim 1 and in addition dispensing an electric impulse between 5 and 60 kV after the cultivation stage.

Claim 5 (withdrawn): The method for incubating *Pleurotus nebrodensis* according to claim 1 wherein the temperature of the early cultivating stage is 16 to 24°C, the temperature of the mid-cultivating stage 6 to 14°C and the late cultivating stage 26 to 34°C.

Claim 6 (withdrawn): The method for incubating *Pleurotus nebrodensis* according to claim 5 wherein the duration of the early cultivation stage is 35 to 45 days, the mid-cultivation stage 5-15 days and the late-cultivation stage 5-15 days.

Claim 7 (withdrawn): The method for incubating *Pleurotus nebrodensis* according to claim 1 in which the humidity is maintained at 65-75% in the cultivating stage.

Claim 8 (withdrawn): A method for incubating *Pleurotus nebrodensis* in accordance to claim 2 wherein the temperature of the former generating stage is -5 to +3°C and the temperature of the latter-generating stage is 14 to 22°C.

Claim 9 (withdrawn): A method for incubating *Pleurotus nebrodensis* according to claim 8 in which during the generating stage the temperature is increased by 2 steps.

Claim 10 (withdrawn): A method for incubating *Pleurotus nebrodensis* according to claim 2, wherein in the generating stage, humidity is maintained between 75-85% and then increased to 90-100% at the same time the temperature is increased.

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Claim 11 (withdrawn): A method for incubating *Pleurotus nebrodensis* according to claim 2 wherein in the generating stage, the carbon dioxide level and/or illumination light intensity is increased at the same time as increasing temperature.

Claim 12 (withdrawn): A method for incubating *Pleurotus nebrodensis* according to claim 2 in which during generation, the dead bacterial layer is removed before increasing temperature.

Claim 13 (withdrawn): A method for incubating *Pleurotus nebrodensis* comprising of steps (a) to (d):

(a) a step for inoculating an inoculum of *Pleurotus nebrodensis* in a culture medium;

(b) a step for an incubation at a temperature of 20-30°C whereby allowing the mycelium to proliferate over the culture medium after step (a);

(c) a step for giving an electric impulse at 5 to 60 kV after step (b); and,

(d) a step for generating fruiting bodies at a temperature of 10-20°C after step (c).

Claim 14 (withdrawn): The method for incubating *Pleurotus nebrodensis* according to claim 13 in which the step (d), the temperature is temporarily decreased at -1 to 2°C and then increased at 10-20° C.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A disease preventing/treating agent which contains *P. nebrodensis* as a main ingredient comprising a dried powder and/or a hot water extract of *Pleurotus nebrodensis*.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The A disease preventing/treating agent consistent according to claim 15, comprised of a dried powder of *Pleurotus nebrodensis*

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~~and/or its hot water extract wherein said disease is one or more of hypertension, hyperlipidemia and obesity.~~

Claim 17 (canceled)

Claim 18 (withdrawn): The method for incubating *Pleurotus nebrodensis* according to claim 2 and in addition dispensing an electric impulse between 5 and 60 kV after the cultivation stage.

Claim 19 (withdrawn): The method for incubating *Pleurotus nebrodensis* according to claim 3 and in addition dispensing an electric impulse between 5 and 60 kV after the cultivation stage.

Claim 20 (withdrawn): The method for incubating *Pleurotus nebrodensis* according to claim 2 wherein the temperature of the early cultivating stage is 16 to 24°C, the temperature of the mid-cultivating stage 6 to 14°C and the late cultivating stage 26 to 34°C.

Claim 21 (withdrawn): The method for incubating *Pleurotus nebrodensis* according to claim 3 wherein the temperature of the early cultivating stage is 16 to 24°C, the temperature of the mid-cultivating stage 6 to 14°C and the late cultivating stage 26 to 34°C.

Claim 22 (withdrawn): The method for incubating *Pleurotus nebrodensis* according to claim 3 in which the humidity is maintained at 65-75% in the cultivating stage.

Claim 23 (withdrawn): The method for incubating *Pleurotus nebrodensis* in accordance to claim 3 wherein the temperature of the former generating stage is -5 to +3°C and the temperature of the latter-generating stage is 14 to 22°C.

Claim 24 (withdrawn): The method for incubating *Pleurotus nebrodensis* according to claim 23 in which during the generating stage the temperature is increased by 2 steps.

Claim 25 (withdrawn): The method for incubating *Pleurotus nebrodensis* according to claim 3, wherein in the generating stage, humidity is maintained between 75-85% and then increased to 90-100% at the same time the temperature is increased.

Claim 26 (withdrawn): The method for incubating *Pleurotus nebrodensis* according to claim 3 wherein in the generating stage, the carbon dioxide level and/or illumination light intensity is increased at the same time as increasing temperature.

Claim 27 (withdrawn): The method for incubating *Pleurotus nebrodensis* according to claim 3 in which during generation, the dead bacterial layer is removed before increasing temperature.

Claim 28 (new): The disease preventing/treating agent according to claim 15, wherein said *P. nebrodensis* is a fruiting body of said *P. nebrodensis*; wherein said fruiting body of said *P. nebrodensis* is obtained by cultivation of a spore of said *P. nebrodensis* at an early cultivating stage of about 16 to 24°C, followed by a mid-cultivating stage of about 6 to 14°C, and a late cultivating stage of 26 to 34°C.

Claim 29 (new): The disease preventing/treating agent according to claim 28, wherein said early cultivating stage is about 35 to 45 days, said mid-cultivation stage is about 5 to 15 days, and said late cultivation stage is about 5 to 15 days.

Claim 30 (new): The disease preventing/treating agent according to claim 28, wherein said *P. nebrodensis* is cultivated at a humidity of about 65 to 75% in said cultivating stage.

Claim 31 (new): The disease preventing/treating agent according to claim 28, wherein after a mycelium is proliferated, said *P. nebrodensis* is treated with an electric impulse of about 5 and 60 kV.

Claim 32 (new): The disease preventing/treating agent according to claim 31, wherein said mycelium is maintained uniformly at -5 to +3°C for about 5 days, followed by about 5 days at around 1 to 9°C, and then to an elevated temperature at around 14 to 22°C.